



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

MISSION

INTEGRATION

SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

July 2022



# MISSION: ADVANCEMENT

Our teams advance the One Hanford mission by developing new systems and deploying innovative technologies.

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*\*Some photos in this issue were taken prior to re-instatement of COVID-19 safety protocols.*

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Advancement is the perfect word to be using in the middle of 2022! As the site integrator, we continue leading the charge on advancement. This team makes me proud with innovative work that not only keeps us safe while the One Hanford mission continues, but also enables success by advancing our projects and timelines.

HMIS has implemented, and now maintains, numerous technical advancements. One of those is the virtual tour platform, allowing anyone with internet access to tour the Hanford Site and learn more about the important cleanup mission we are all a part of. We also brought a drone program to Hanford, and this innovative technology will increase efficiency and reduce risk on numerous projects across the Site.

Further advancing our infrastructure, construction continues on the new 10,000-square-foot water treatment facility. When complete, this facility will produce at least 3.5 million gallons of water a day – increasing support of long-term tank waste treatment.

This short list is a drop in the bucket of advancement you helped accomplish in 2022 and I cannot wait to see what the remainder of the year brings us. Thank you for continuing to be safe, supportive and mindful of the mission!

Bob

### Guest Message – Todd Synoground

Those who know me, know how interested I am in advancing our operations into the 21st century. By this, I mean developing systems and deploying technologies that support, and even improve, our ability to perform work in the field. Using tools like small unmanned aircraft systems and mixed-reality technology, the ability to use industrial control systems to obtain data, and artificial intelligence to help maximize our understanding of the data, all propel us into a more proactive organization. These tools will drive more efficient use of our precious human resources while reducing performance errors and improving our safety posture.

I am also very invested in the advancement of our teammates. Having started my Hanford career as a nuclear chemical operator, I understand the importance of building our leadership team from the ground up. I have been blessed to work with some amazing teams and I believe the Infrastructure and Site Services team to be the best of the best.

And lastly, I am committed to the advancement of the One Hanford mission. We are all here by choice and I believe it's because we hold a deep-seated desire to make our surrounding environment a safe place by removing the obvious hazards created by past weapons production activities. We will continue to strive for improvements that make our work safer and more efficient. This truly is an honorable mission, and I am thankful to be supporting it with the amazing HMIS team.



## RECOGNITION



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Sherrill Edwards

Sitewide Standards Senior Technical Writer/Editor Sherrill Edwards found a unique way to contribute her talents – she’s a team policy debate and moot court coach for the National Christian Forensics and Communication Association, a non-profit based in Yakima. About 5,000 homeschool students nationwide compete through the NCFCFA each year.

Sherrill is a founding member of our local club: Expressio Speech and Debate. She’s been involved with the program for a decade and coached for the last seven years. Two teams representing Expressio competed at the recent national championship, finishing 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

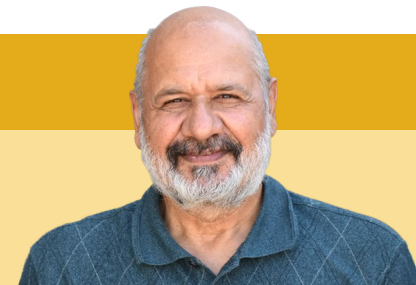
“I believe speech and debate is the most beneficial activity a high school student can participate in, because it is the application of logic and rhetoric. It did so much for my children, that I stayed on to coach,” said Sherrill. “I coach club weekly and then meet weekly with each team for tutoring.” This amounts to about 20-30 hours a week volunteering. In addition, she travels within the Pacific Northwest, and sometimes nationally, to judge competitions. Sherrill was recently asked to serve on NCFCFA’s national debate resolution committee.

During the off-season, Sherrill helps plan Expressio summer camp and will deliver her annual topic lecture there and in Bellingham. “I find volunteering to coach young people in speech and debate to be immensely rewarding, and I plan to continue for the foreseeable future,” Sherrill said.

## RECOGNITION



### Volunteer of the Quarter



Contributor: Shane Edinger

The HMIS Family of volunteers is second to none! Since the start of the new contract, 174 HMIS employees, subcontractors and their loved ones have donated more than 410 hours of time to help at 14 HMIS-organized volunteer events, supporting local organizations like Second Harvest, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and several others.

This month, we want to recognize a member of our HMIS Family who consistently makes a commitment to volunteer his time, Harry Bajwa. Harry has volunteered at several events over the last 18 months, including our Second Harvest food sorts, the Bikes for Tikes build, and our book labeling event for the Children’s Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia. Harry also helped install smoke alarms in a Kennewick neighborhood as part of the American Red Cross’ Sound the Alarm campaign.

“I enjoy helping out in our community,” Harry shared. “I try to volunteer for as many HMIS Family events as I can. It’s great to meet some of my co-workers from other organizations and work alongside them to support our community.”

To recognize our Volunteers of the Quarter, HMIS will make a \$250 donation to the non-profit 501(c)3 organization of their choice. For this quarter, Harry asked that the contribution go to the American Red Cross.

We are so proud of our HMIS Family and their commitment to serve our community. Thank you!





Sustainable Purchasing Wins Awards

Contributor: MaryAnne Wuennecke

For the sixth year in a row, Hanford contractors have received the EPEAT Purchaser Award from the Global Electronics Council. The award honors excellence in procurement of sustainable technology that meets the GEC’s Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) standards. Its sustainability criteria requires electronics to be more energy efficient, less toxic, longer lasting and easier to recycle, while also addressing labor and human rights issues throughout the supply chain.

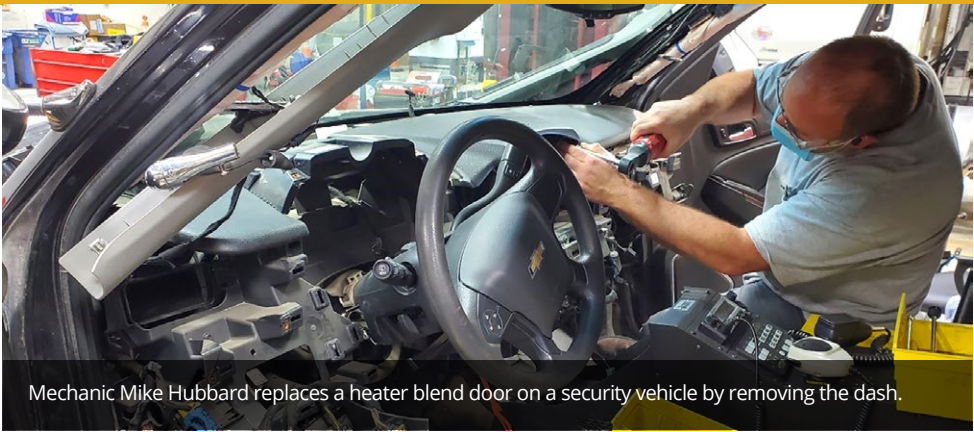
This has been a team effort, with HMIS Information Management establishing standards for information technology equipment that is

ENERGY STAR certified and registered in EPEAT, and then working closely with WRPS, CPCCo, HLMI, HPMC OMS and DOE for sustainable purchasing.

The DOE Hanford Program **accepted the award** in late July. The program was recognized in five categories in 2022: computers and displays, imaging equipment (printers, copiers and scanners), mobile telephones, televisions and servers. The application for the 2022 EPEAT Purchaser Award used data from FY21 procurements.

“We ensure that at least 95% of electronics we buy meet the EPEAT standards,” said Chris Shannon, the Information Management Services team member who gathers the data and submits the application each year. “We want to make sure we’re doing our part to minimize waste and achieve our sustainability goals.”

The GEC provides a breakdown of how Hanford’s purchasing practices are reducing environmental impacts and supporting our commitment to long-term stewardship. Last year’s purchases of 1,798 items saved more than \$51,000 and recognized an energy savings of 1,133,636 Kilowatt hours (see the complete list **here**).



Fleet Services Keeps First Responders Rolling

Contributors: David Baie & Robin Wojtanik

Providing fire protection, security and emergency preparedness to cover the entire Hanford Site results in about 250 vehicles and pieces of equipment needed for our Emergency Services organization – and a continual workload for our Fleet Services team to support this unique mission.

The effort by Fleet includes outfitting emergency response vehicles with the necessary equipment, including lights, sirens, radios, or weapon retention systems. Each year, about 15-20 emergency response vehicles are replaced and the new units must be ready to roll with

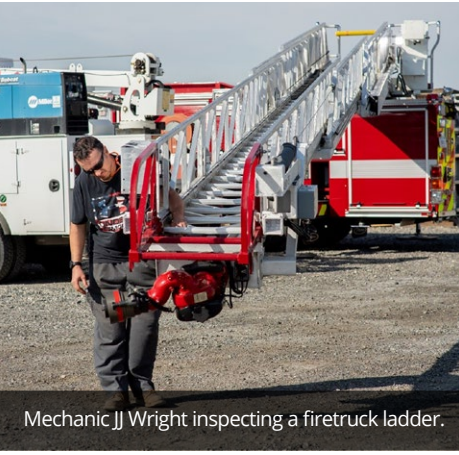
the same capabilities, requiring experienced technicians to work closely with Emergency Services staff.

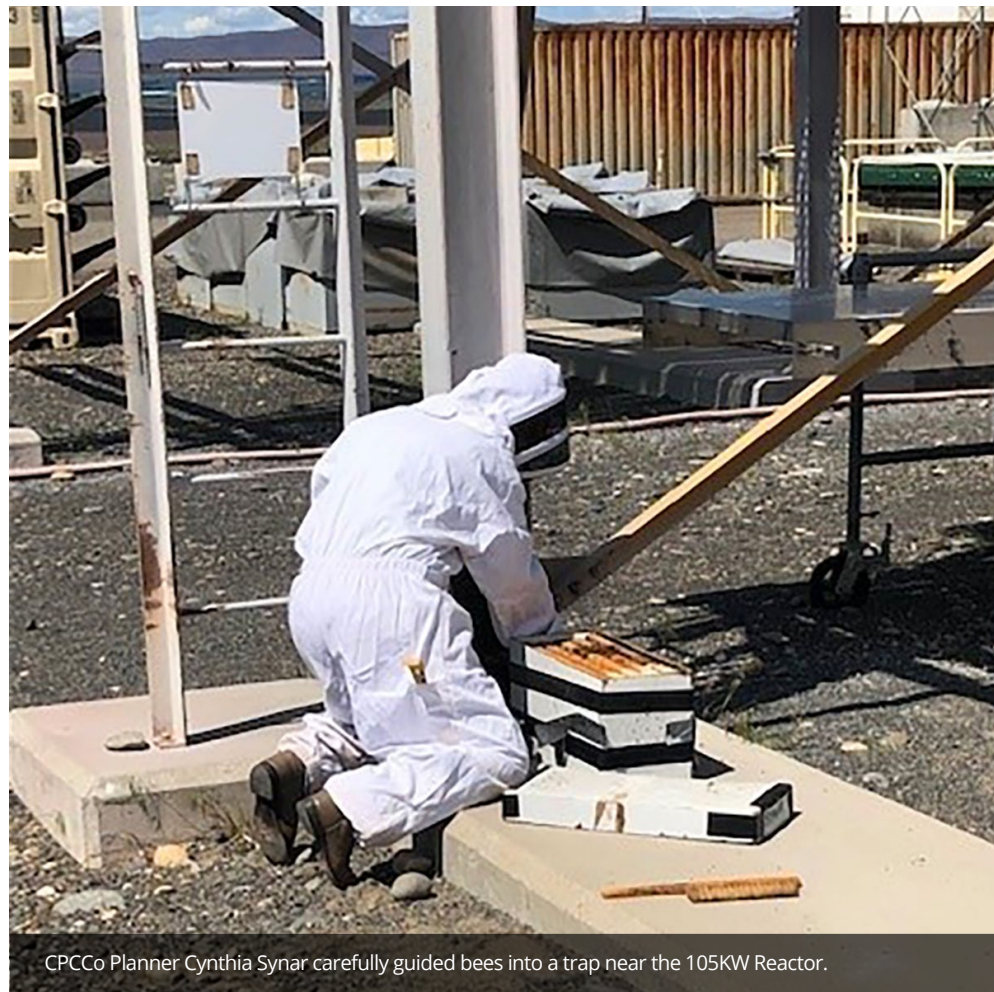
A current example is a crew cab pickup transformed for the K9 training unit. Fleet installed a special canopy, sliding mount and other equipment. In addition, the team modified the center console with new features useful to Hanford Patrol officers. “I appreciate their dedication and hard work in keeping our fleet operational so we can meet our mission requirements,” said Hanford Patrol Chief Lorin Cyr.



Vehicle repairs can be complicated by the auxiliary equipment and updated technology incorporated into newer vehicles. Now, simply replacing the part that sends heat or A/C into the cab may require complete disassembly of the dash.

In the current fiscal year, Fleet Services has fulfilled more than 500 work orders to support Emergency Services. These can be anything from standard preventative maintenance to replacement of significant parts of a fire suppression system. The groups have also teamed to identify areas of improvement and develop actions aimed at improving standards. Whatever it takes to keep them in service, Fleet is up for the challenge.





CPCCo Planner Cynthia Synar carefully guided bees into a trap near the 105KW Reactor.

## Bio Controls Assists with Bee Swarm

*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

A large swarm of bees were safely relocated after CPCCo consulted with our Biological Controls team on how to handle the discovery. The bees had collected near the former 105KW reactor where cleanup work was underway. When a hive gets overcrowded, bees naturally look for a new place to nest, creating this swarm.

A beekeeper hobbyist who works for CPCCo assisted with finding a new home for the colony. Bees are important pollinators for native grasses and other plants on the Hanford Site. Additional bees remaining in the K Area may be relocated later this summer if they move into traps placed nearby.



Members of DOE's Tank Farms Projects, Tank Farms Business Operations and Tank Farms Programs groups head out for an in-person "windshield" tour of Hanford Site landmarks and projects.

## MISSION: ADVANCEMENT

### DOE Employee Site Visits Come to Hanford

*Contributor: Amber Peters*

Earlier this month, the first bus carrying DOE employees pulled out of the 2440 building parking lot on its maiden voyage to numerous locations and facilities across the Hanford Site. Ranging from the historic "reactor row" to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, DOE employees got an updated, or even first look, at the projects that give context to their everyday activities.

"You can see pictures and videos, which are wonderful resources, but you really have to set your eyes on the Site to get a true feel of the size and scale," said Scott Stover, Hanford Office of Communications.

For those who are already frequent flyers to the Site, or well-informed project experts, the visit also provides enriching geological, environmental and cultural information that adds a new dimension to the area, its history and the importance of environmental cleanup.

Consistent with the One Hanford mission, the excursion highlights a varied list of locations, from the cocooning of the K West Reactor to the Hanford Tank-Side Cesium Removal System, helping illustrate the connection between the projects and how the coordinated work scopes move the Site toward 24/7 waste treatment operations.

"The Site visits do a great job of showcasing the bigger picture of Hanford's cleanup mission," said Coleen Drinkard, HMIS communications specialist. "Our goal is to focus attention on the broader view and emphasize the increasingly unified future we are all working toward. The trips are also a great way to advance group cohesion and worker engagement."

The visits will continue through the summer and are organized and facilitated through a coordinated effort between HMIS' Communications group and DOE's Hanford Office of Communications. HMIS' experienced teamsters provide drivers, and tour guides are provided by HMIS subcontractor, Indian Eyes.

DOE staff Site visits took place in early July, prior to changes in our COVID-19 Community Level. Visits will resume when levels decrease.



Workforce Solutions business partner Ami Davis shares information about her organization during a recent Employee Essentials 101 course.



Darci Teel, vice president of Mission Assurance, shares information about safety representatives during an Employee Essentials 101 course.

“The response was so strong, we actually expanded the maximum capacity for the class.”

JIM WHALLEY

# MISSION: ADVANCEMENT

## Employee Essentials 101: An Inside Look at HMIS

Contributor: Shane Edinger

Did you know there are more than 40 different organizations within the functional service areas here at HMIS? Ever wanted to learn something about each of those organizations? Employee Essentials 101 may be just the ticket you’re looking for.

The Workforce Solutions team put together this two-day professional development course to provide both new and experienced employees with information to help them understand how each HMIS organization works. Speakers representing each organization share information about

their processes and procedures to help attendees develop a thorough understanding of the business function of each organization, as well as their application to the HMIS business model and the One Hanford mission.

“It’s an opportunity for our new employees, and even some of our more experienced employees, to see how the company works from the inside,” shared Jim Whalley, who facilitates the course for the Workforce Resources and Development team.

The first Employee Essentials 101 course was held in June. “The response was so strong, we actually expanded the maximum capacity for the class,” Whalley added. Because of the high interest, the team is planning to offer the class once a month through the end of the calendar year and will likely continue into 2023.

The team will also launch a complementary course, Manager Essentials 201, starting in September. The one-day course will provide a sound foundation for managers and supervisors, who will learn about processes and procedures from a management perspective across multiple

organizations. Managers will need to complete the Employee Essentials course before attending the Manager Essentials course.

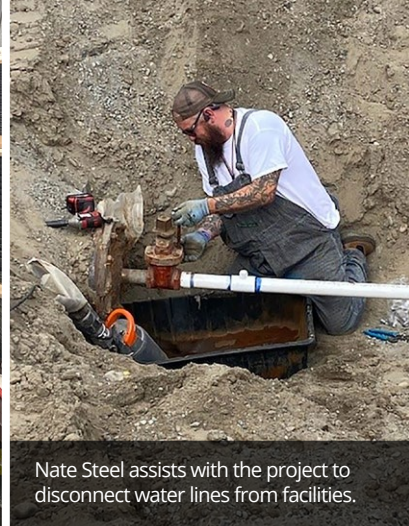
If you’re interested in attending these classes, contact your organization’s training coordinator. Information about the class schedule can be found on the **HMIS Development website**.



Todd Freeland (left) and Adam Wittner disconnect electrical connections to facilities that supported PFP.



IMS team members remove PFP connections. From foreground, Quinn Bragg, Jason Hammack and Bryan Hurt.



Nate Steel assists with the project to disconnect water lines from facilities.



Our teams advance the One Hanford mission by developing new systems and deploying innovative technologies.



Borrow Pit Manager Brian Harmon (left) and sUAS Project Manager Ben Cowin observe a drone flight.

# MISSION: ADVANCEMENT

## PFP Support Facilities Disconnected

*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

Now that cleanup is complete at the former Plutonium Finishing Plant, it was up to our teams to make the last disconnection of lines for water, sewer and electrical, as well as IT cables that serviced the facilities. The lengthy project concluded over the last six months.

For our Water & Sewer Utilities group, they needed to isolate and drain potable water lines, remove valves from the water system and cap them off, and confirm there were no leaks. This took many attempts to achieve since the valves were over 40-years old, and it was challenging to remove parts that had been underground for decades. The team removed 16,000 gallons of water from the lines and reused it across the Hanford Site.

During the job, crews found a valve stuck in the open position and had to replace a portion of it before capping off the line. Industrial Hygiene and Radiological Control contributed to the work and all excavation equipment had to be radiologically regulated. W&SU restored potable water to the main line but ensured it would no longer supply the PFP support facilities.

Above ground, our Electrical Utilities crews pulled temporary substations, meters and other electrical equipment from the area near PFP, including gear that powered mobile trailers on Site. Fiber and copper telecommunications cables had also remained in place for a couple facilities, including MO290, MO495 and 2754W. Those were also disconnected and removed as part of extensive demolition for the facilities that once supported PFP.

# MISSION: ADVANCEMENT

## Advancement in Innovation: I&SS Brings Drone Program to Hanford

*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

Congrats to the wide range of team members who worked on successfully launching the first drone program for the Hanford Site, spearheaded by our Infrastructure & Site Services team. Now available for requests from all contractors, the small Unmanned Aircraft System Program took more than a year of development and testing to confirm it could safely and securely operate.

“The sUAS system platform is secure and compliant, and potential use requests are truly limitless,” said Todd Synoground, I&SS senior vice president. “We expect to assist with remote tours, land management and

even emergency response. I’m proud of the dedication by our team in getting this program off the ground – literally.”

sUAS project managers worked with the software development team from subcontractor North Wind Solutions to create the online mission request system. Every request requires a variety of approvals, including Cybersecurity, Physical Security, Safety and Environmental. A subcontractor performs the actual flights, whether it’s looking at a building’s exterior, capturing surface imagery or video, or conducting utility assessments. The turnaround time is approximately two weeks for a request to be filed before a flight may be scheduled. We are proud of our role in this innovative milestone now in place on the Hanford Site.

*A quick reminder, personal drones remain a prohibited article on the Hanford Site.*



The Mission Critical Maintenance team, from left: Nicholas Crum, Lonnie Turner, Kelly Hagins, David Kaiser, Todd Thomas, Tom True, Sharon Leinen, Koby Rea, Ben Wutzke, Mark Faith and Luke Ellis.

## MISSION: ADVANCEMENT

### Team Focus: Mission Critical Maintenance Team Advances Maintenance Goals

*Contributor: Amber Peters*

During contract transition, the Mission Critical Maintenance team was formed to support the Hanford Fire Department. Since its inception, the focused and adaptive team has made impressive advancements, accomplishing significant maintenance goals from replacing chains on rollup doors to critical electrical power installation projects.

Working closely with key individuals from HFD, the new team quickly examined the work scope, assessing the department's maintenance needs and requirements, and assembling initial team members.

“The Mission Critical Maintenance team has done an outstanding job ensuring our facilities are consistently habitable.”

**TOM TRUE, ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF**

“We had a few growing pains at first, like any newly formed group,” said Kelly Hagins, Project Support Maintenance Services manager. “But we quickly overcame those initial hurdles and began making measurable progress.”

One major item initially identified was a backlog containing 232 work packages. Besides addressing the backlog, the team would provide daily, weekly and monthly preventative maintenance to keep HFD's facilities compliant.

Last fall, the team started performing daily preventative maintenance while integrating the backlog of work scope. This has decreased the backlog to roughly 80 items while the team performs several preventative maintenance items weekly to avoid adding to the to-do list.

“Maintaining HFD facilities, which are often continually occupied, presents a unique challenge,” said Assistant Fire Chief Tom True. “The Mission Critical Maintenance team has done an outstanding job ensuring our facilities are consistently habitable. This support is crucial to ensuring HFD mission assuredness.”

A great example of mission integration, the team's successful track record is supported by its cooperative culture. “I believe our biggest success has been the attitude, mentality and ethics of our group,” said Hagins. “I have great admiration and respect for the members of our team and am honored to support them. We will continue to carry out our work safely and with deliberate speed to ensure the success of the Mission Critical group and the Hanford Fire Department.”

## MISSION: ADVANCEMENT

### Can You Hear Me Now? Good.

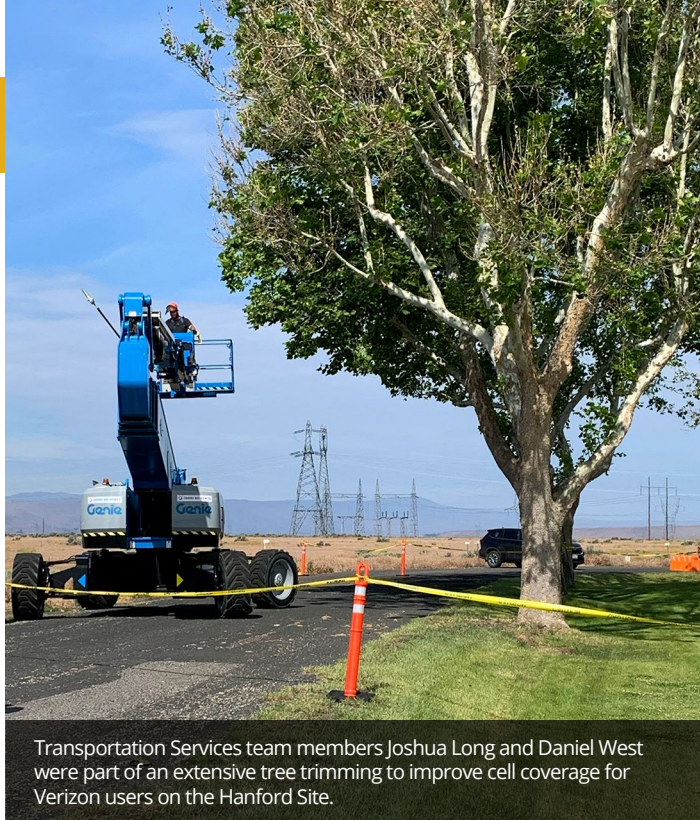
*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

A troublesome tree got a major trimming after it was identified as the culprit for dropped calls and poor cell coverage for some of the Hanford workforce. Cell carrier Verizon had received multiple complaints about declining coverage and narrowed it down to one of the towers near Hanford Fire Station 91.

“They found a degraded signal on a point-to-point microwave signal, which carries the traffic from that cell site back to their central switch, where calls are routed,” explained Toby Greer, Field Support Services for Information Management Systems. “The growth of the trees and water in the leaves was causing a loss of signal.”

Our Biological Controls team worked with Transportation Services, Radiological Control Field Support, Industrial Safety and Environmental to coordinate a plan to safely cut back dense growth on the sycamore tree and dispose of the branches. The project included heavy equipment operators to haul the lift to the site. Two people did the cutting while other workers cleared debris below.

Greer was on the phone with Verizon as the trimming began. As the team cut the branches, Verizon confirmed to Greer in real time whether the signal was improving. The project took most of the day and resulted in a final reading level acceptable to the carrier. “HMIS teams jumped in to work this issue to help Verizon successfully complete coverage for our Hanford workforce,” concluded Greer.



Transportation Services team members Joshua Long and Daniel West were part of an extensive tree trimming to improve cell coverage for Verizon users on the Hanford Site.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Helping Hands at Second Harvest

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

How about them apples? The HMIS Family was out in full force once again to lend a hand at Second Harvest Tri-Cities. This time, the spirited teamwork of about two dozen HMIS employees and family members helped sort and pack more than 7,500 pounds of fresh apples into family-friendly bags for distribution at local food banks.

Due to inflation and higher prices everywhere, Second Harvest continues to face a growing need for food in our community as more families turn to food banks to help make ends meet. Our HMIS Family truly enjoys volunteering with Second Harvest and making a difference in our community.

Keep your eyes on the Mission Insight weekly email for more upcoming HMIS Family volunteer opportunities or contact Shane Edinger if you're interested in setting up a team-building volunteer opportunity just for your group.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## HMIS Awards \$39,000+ in Scholarships

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS is committed to investing in the development of the future Hanford workforce, and that starts with our dependent and co-op intern scholarship programs. This year, Workforce Solutions proudly awarded more than \$39,000 in scholarships to 38 students.

A total of 35 scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to dependents of HMIS employees, while three HMIS co-op interns each received a \$1,500 scholarship. The Columbia Basin College Foundation administers and distributes scholarship funds on behalf of HMIS, and students can use the scholarships at the school of their choice in the upcoming school year.

HMIS also made a \$25,000 donation to the CBC Foundation's general scholarship fund to support students in our community. Over the past two years, HMIS has awarded more than \$101,000 in scholarship funds.

Scholarship recipients are enrolled in numerous areas of study, including environmental science, business, nursing, engineering, computer science and education. They are attending colleges and universities such as WSU, EWU, Oregon State, Idaho, BYU and CBC. "I'm proud to work for a company that's committed to employees and their families and has a vested interest in supporting education in our community," shared Maureen Gore, HMIS internship coordinator.



HMIS proudly supports the educational efforts of these students, who are the future of Hanford and our community. Congratulations and best of luck to these students! Co-Op intern recipients: German Anguiano, Breanna Blair and Paul Ellis. Dependent scholarship recipients: Jessica Baie, Hannah Bednarczyk, Lindsey Benham, Tanner Bolt, Easton Bowe, Mia DeGarmo, Marlene Diaz, Jonathan Drinkard, KayLee Door, Tessa Eslick, Marie Fenske, Ruth Rachel Fenske, Chase Flora, Drew Gadd, Mason Gilmour, Kesa Hamner, Rand Hamner, Haylee Hansen, Jadyn Johnson, Annie Lee, Celia Lugo, Daniel Montes, Reed Ofsthun, Ethan Ritchie, Ryker Ritchie, Aubrey Scott, Emma Stafford, Sawyer Stenson, Sydnee Suarez, Kaitlyn Thompson, Trace Thompson, Elise Von Bargen, Ethan Von Bargen and Dorothy Witherspoon.



HMIS is proud to donate \$25,000 to the CBC Foundation's general scholarship fund to help students in our community.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## Volunteering for Junior Achievement

We want to note the outstanding support provided to local students by HMIS volunteers who presented JA programs in Tri-Cities classrooms this spring. Volunteers Reneé Brooks (below), Diane Call, Heather Goldie and Pat Mastaler (left) all lent their leadership talents to students this past school year once classrooms began welcoming visitors again!



